Declaration of Interdependence

Echoes of Silence

One Planet. One People.

Declaration of Interdependence

We, the People – and Peoples – of this one exquisite – and exquisitely fragile – Planet, hold these truths to be self-evident:

- That all persons of every race, calling, creed, colour, gender, condition and age are created equal. There are no exceptions.

- That they, collectively and individually, are endowed with certain inalienable rights. Among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

- That the fundamental sources and resources to achieve these rights: Peace without fear, force, or weapons; pure air; fresh water; an uncontaminated earth; nourishing food; good health; full respect; creative education; a secure home; race/gender balance; equitable justice; local and global responsibility; authentic, proportionate, participative representation and government; and worthwhile work - also belong inalienably to them all, for ever.

- That this inheritance - these resources truly without price - can never be taken over or away by individuals, classes, corporations and/or states for their own exclusive or majority use, exploitation, profit or control.

- Rather, that it is the marvellous gift and responsibility of every human being and generation to enjoy and utilize these common resources with respect and delight, in interdependence with all peoples and with the whole multitude of species, both animal and plant, with which we co-inhabit this tiny, fragile, planet.

- And, within that gift, to hand them on, enhanced, to the children of our children's children.

Such sentiments, worthy though they may be, are toothless without serious planning and profound action.

Therefore, We, the People and Peoples of our one Earth - so battered, so beloved - require that all our employees, the governments of the world, re-allocate at least 5% of all resources currently devoted to the military, war, weapons development, and the arms trade to re-green the planet, and bring pure water to every single person on Earth. Vitally, 5% not merely of money and materials but also - and especially - of the creative lives and expertise of their members.

Further, We, the People and Peoples of our one Earth, require that all countries and individuals grown unsustainably wealthy through historical and/or ongoing exploitation of whole nations, people, peoples, flora, fauna and other common planetary resources, pay, and otherwise make appropriate reparations, for that exploitation. This must prioritize adaptation assistance to all those it has affected - peoples and nations alike, to help ameliorate the climate calamity visited on them by that self-same abuse.

By these means we can:

- Avert otherwise inevitable wars over water - infinitely more precious than oil.

- Re-green the Earth - so blunting the worst effects of the climate crisis, and especially preventing people being driven from their homes by fire, drought and flood.

- Begin the deliberate building-down of weapons. This alone will represent a vast psychological breakthrough for humanity.

- Improve the overall well-being of Mother Earth and all her species and peoples - by liberating unimaginably vast quantities of resources, together with huge numbers of highly-skilled and creative personnel for urgent medical, ecological, social, community-building economics, and other tasks.

- And, finally, the wonder of a healed, balanced, cooperative, planet will at last provide a truly fitting memorial for all those who sacrificed – and who go on sacrificing even today - lives, limbs and minds in all the endless wars to 'end all war'.